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REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania/Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Order of Battle
 Disposition of Border Guard Battalions

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1. Albania has taken measures to strengthen the security of its common frontier with Yugoslavia. Prior to November 1951 Albania had only nine border guard battalions, five of which were deployed along the Albanian-Yugoslav frontier at Koplik, Tropoje, Kukes, Peshkopi and Pogradec, while four battalions were deployed along [redacted] These border guard battalions were under the jurisdiction of the Border Administration of the Ministry of Interior.² An additional battalion was attached to the Border Administration as a reserve unit for the border guard battalions and for the protection of certain unspecified installations in Tirana. 50X1-HUM
2. During 1951 the border guard battalions became under-strength; consequently, additional officers and men were assigned to them. The battalions are composed of approximately 450 officers and men; hence there are estimated to be some 2,250 men guarding the Albanian-Yugoslav frontier area.
3. The security system for protecting the border is based on fixed guardhouses, night patrols and ambush patrols. Special attention is given to communication lines, bridges, and border towns. Ambushes are usually established in areas which are suspected of being used by Albanians escaping into Yugoslavia. During the daylight hours, the frontier area is guarded by patrols and observation posts. Control areas change during the winter and summer months. During the summer months, the border guard units are located immediately near the border and stationed in guardhouses, observations posts, and billets. During the winter months, the units withdraw to an unspecified point behind the frontier. Tactics for guarding the frontier during the winter months are based on fixed ambush positions in strategic areas, and on roving patrols.

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4. Border guard units were reorganized at the end of 1951. Company headquarters were abolished and border guard platoons were placed under the direct control of battalion headquarters. Rumors have been circulating that border guard regiments are being organized.

1. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] the 3 Border Guard Battalion is located at Peshkopi.

2. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] the Division for the Protection of the People (Divisioni i Mbrojtjes se Popullit, DMP) was responsible for guarding the frontiers. At the time of its inception the DMP was subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense for administration and to the Ministry of Interior for operational matters. The situation was subsequently reversed and the DMP was placed under the direct operational and administrative control of the Commander of the Army and the Chief of Staff so that DMP activities could be coordinated with those of the regular Army in matters of defense.
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